

221595
221596

Law Offices

VUONO & GRAY, LLC

*John A. Vuono
William A. Gray
Mark T. Vuono*
Dennis J. Kusturics
Louise R. Schrage
Les A. Goldstrom, Jr.*

310 Grant Street

Suite 2310

Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2383

**Also Admitted in Florida*

*Richard R. Wilson
of Counsel*

*Telephone
412-471-1800*

*Facsimile
412-471-4477*

February 13, 2008

Re: Docket No. AB-183 (Sub-No. 4X)
Union Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption
-In Allegheny County, PA

Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 301X)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company
-Discontinuance of Trackage Rights Exemption
-In Allegheny County, PA

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
FEB 13 2008
Part of
Public Record

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1260
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

We represent Union Railroad Company and are joint counsel with Greg E. Summy, Esq., counsel for Norfolk Southern Railway Company in connection with the Joint Petition for Exemption which was transmitted to the Board for filing by our letter dated February 4, 2008 and assigned the above docket numbers.

We are enclosing for filing with the Board the signed original and ten copies of this letter providing supplemental information concerning the Petitions and the related Combined Environmental and Historic Report filed simultaneously therewith:

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan

Page Two

February 13, 2008

1. In response to requests from Ms. Terry Guy of the Board, to whom we are sending a copy of this letter by facsimile today, we advise as follows:
 - 1.1 With respect to the line segment to be abandoned in the proceeding docketed AB-183 (Sub-No. 4X), there are no stations on that line segment; and
 - 1.2 With respect to the request by Petitioners that the Board expedite its disposition of the Petition, it is requested that to the extent feasible, the Board issue its decision by not later than May 1, 2008. The formal ceremony planned by the City of Pittsburgh in connection with its 250th anniversary year celebration and to commemorate the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage and the official opening of the hiking and biking trail system linking Washington and Pittsburgh is scheduled for on or about October 1, 2008. We are advised that promptly upon approval by the Board of the Petitions, the necessary construction work to convert the Riverton Bridge and related rail lines, etc. for trail use will begin. The construction process will involve the removal of the rail from the bridge; the construction of access ramps on both ends of the bridge; the installation of a new deck on the bridge, including railings, etc.; and related construction. It is estimated that this work will take a minimum of five months to complete and therefore it is important that the work be initiated by not later than May 1.
2. In connection with the Combined Environmental and Historic Report, we have received and we are enclosing the letter dated February 5, 2008 from the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission to our law firm. The letter confirms that the Bureau has reviewed the involved project and has concluded that there are no National Register eligible or listed historic or archaeological properties in the area of the proposed project and that Petitioners responsibility for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office concerning the project is now complete.

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan

Page Three

February 13, 2008

If the Board requires additional information, please direct any requests to the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

VUONO & GRAY, LLC


John A. Vuono

CW 60286

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Terry Guy (w/enc.) (by facsimile 202-245-0464)
Greg E. Summy, Esq. (w/enc.)



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

February 5, 2008

Richard R. Wilson, Esq.
Vuono & Gray, LLC
310 Grant Street, Suite 2310
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2383

Re: File No. ER 08-0514-003-B
STB: Proposed Discontinuance of
Trackage Rights from McKeesport
Branch Station 0+00 (Duquesne
Branch Station 97+26) at Point of
Switch for Turnout D-60, to
McKeesport Branch Station 70+78 at
Point of Turnout UM-1 (the "Rail
Line") & Riverton Bridge
McKeesport & South Duquesne
Allegheny County

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

Based on our survey files, which include both archaeological sites and standing structures, there are no National Register eligible or listed historic or archaeological properties in the area of this proposed project. Therefore, your responsibility for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office for this project is complete. Should you become aware, from any source, that historic or archaeological properties are located at or near the project site, please notify the Bureau for Historic Preservation at (717) 783-8946.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McLearn".

Douglas C. McLearn, Chief
Division of Archaeology &
Protection

DCM/tmw